

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

IN THIS ISSUE

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY Labor honors fallen workers. | Page 2

NEW PRESIDENT AT NW OREGON LABOR COUNCIL
UFCW's Jeff Anderson elected. | Page 5

Meetings p.6 Bowling for MDA p.8 Classifieds p.11

VOLUME 117, NUMBER 9

PORTLAND, OREGON

MAY 6, 2016

May 17 Primary Election Endorsements of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Commissioner, Position 3: **MARTHA SCHRADER**

Commissioner, Position 4: **TOOTIE SMITH (no endorsement*)**

Chair: **JOHN LUDLOW (no endorsement*)**

* Actively oppose

Measure 3-476

(General obligation bond to replace obsolete emergency radio communications system in Clackamas County)

SUPPORT

Measure 3-477

(Milwaukie, Oregon general obligation bond for library repairs, improvements and updated technology)

SUPPORT

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Commissioner, Position 1: **MARGARET MAGRUDER**

Commissioner, Position 3: **TONY HYDE**

METRO

Councilor, 5th District: **SAM CHASE**

Councilor, 6th District: **BOB STACEY**

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Commissioner, District 3: **JESSICA VEGA PEDERSON**

Commissioner, District 4: **AMANDA SCHROEDER**

CITY OF PORTLAND

Commissioner, Position 1: **AMANDA FRITZ**

Commissioner, Position 4: **STEVE NOVICK**

Measure 26-173: Fix Our Streets Portland

(a temporary 10-cents-per-gallon Portland gas tax for street repair, traffic safety)

SUPPORT

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Commissioner, District 1: **DICK SCHOUTEN**

MT HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Measure 26-170

(Bond to construct Workforce Training Center; enhance safety and technology)

SUPPORT

Authorized and paid for by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council,
9955 SE Washington, St., Suite 305, Portland, OR 97216

Instafab hearing turns to shouting match

Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek headlines a Workers Rights Board panel

An April 28 forum for striking ironworkers turned into a shouting match between pro- and anti-union workers after the company owner showed up with about 15 employees to rebut stories about his company that supporters of Ironworkers Local 29 have been telling.

At Vancouver-based Instafab, a nonunion steel fabricator and installer, five employees went out on strike Feb. 27, 2015, after the company general manager rejected a list of demands they presented — water and dry shacks on every job, safety and other training, company-paid health coverage, a retirement plan, and area standard wages. Most of Instafab's approximately 75 employees remained on the job, but strikers say their



At nonunion Instafab, supporters of Iron Workers Local 29 have been on strike over a year, but at an April 28 meeting organized by Jobs with Justice, the owner, Bruce Perkins (above) and anti-union employees came to say employees are happy.

number has grown to 19, though several have also gone back to Instafab. Strikers have called on Instafab customers to stop doing business with the company, and have even taken their complaints about Instafab to Portland City Council.

The April 28 event, held at a meeting room at the downtown Portland offices of Mercy Corps, was to be a hearing on worker safety at Instafab, put on by Portland Jobs with Justice as

Turn to Page 3

Union standoff widens at Nabisco

By Don McIntosh
Associate editor

Nabisco and its principal union have reached a standoff. The union contract covering 2,000 American workers in five states expired Feb. 29, but the two sides haven't reached a new agreement, and no further contract talks are scheduled. At any time, the workers could strike, or the company could lock them out of their jobs, or just implement its own contract offer and see what the union does about it. As the union's national president told local officers in a recent conference call, it's like a game of chess when there are very few pieces left on the board.

Leaders of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco and Grain Millers (BCTGM) say it's no secret why there's no new agreement: Mondelēz, owner of the Nabisco brand, is proposing to withdraw from the union pension plan and worsen health insurance coverage — despite the fact that the company is prof-



Bakers Local 364 member Shelly Lasher hands out Boycott Nabisco fliers outside a May 1 Portland Timbers game. Mondelēz is the official "snacks partner" of Major League Soccer. Lasher's union is calling on consumers to check the label, and not buy made-in-Mexico Nabisco products.

itable. The company is also shutting down some production lines in Chicago and shifting production of Oreos and other snacks to Mexico.

When the two sides last met April 7-8, Mondelēz presented what it called its "Revised Last, Best and Final Offer." The company is proposing a four-year

contract with 2.25 percent annual wage increases and a \$5,000 ratification bonus — but it also wants concessions on health and retirement benefits. Mondelēz proposes to replace the current "100 percent" health-care plan with a "90/10" health-care plan in which workers

Turn to Page 10